

IN THE CLAIMS

1. to 20. (cancelled).

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (cancelled)

27. (cancelled)

28. (cancelled)

29. (cancelled)

30. (cancelled)

31. (cancelled)

32. (cancelled)

33. (cancelled)

34. (cancelled)

35. (cancelled)

36. (cancelled)

37. (cancelled)

38. (new) A vertebral body contact element for securing an orthopedic device to a vertebral body endplate, the vertebral body contact element comprising a flexible element and a coating, wherein the flexible element includes a central portion and a perimeter portion in communication with the orthopedic device, wherein the coating is applied to the perimeter portion of the flexible element such that the flexible element maintains engagement with orthopedic device, wherein the central portion is remote from the orthopedic implant.

39. (new) The vertebral body contact element of claim 38, wherein the vertebral body contact element is deformably reshapable under anatomical loads such that the vertebral body

contact element is conformably deflectable against the vertebral body endplate to securably engage the vertebral body endplate.

40. (new) The vertebral body contact element of claim 39, wherein the vertebral body contact element comprises a wire mesh having a resting shape of a dome convexly extendable from the orthopedic device.

41. (new) The vertebral body contact element of claim 39, wherein the vertebral body contact element comprises a dome that has a convexity depth approximating a concavity depth of a concave surface of a vertebral body endplate.

42. (new) The vertebral body contact element of claim 39, wherein the vertebral body contact element comprises a dome that has a footprint approximating a footprint of a concave surface of a vertebral body endplate.